

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCI-06 INT-08 FEA-02

DLOS-07 COA-02 DRC-01 NEA-14 /149 W

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R 121051Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4539

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH-GREEK DISPUTE OVER AEGEAN: GSI CONTRACT
TO EXPLORE IN AEGEAN

REF ANKARA 4506

1. IN MEETING WITH FONMIN GUNES JUNE 11, HE SAID GOT UNDERSTANDS US HAS CIRCULATED RECOMMENDATION TO US PETROLEUM EXPLORATION COMPANIES TO EFFECT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES IN AREAS SPECIFICALLY INVOLVED IN CURRENT AEGEAN DISPUTE. HE ASSERTED THAT SINCE GREECE ALREADY HAS CARRIED OUT STUDIES IN AEGEAN, THE US POSITION DAMAGED TURKEY BUT WOULD NOT HURT GREECE IN ANY WAY. HE ASSERTED ALSO THAT EXCEPT FOR DRILLING, EXPLORATION IN DISPUTED AREA IS PERMITTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. ON THIS BASIS HE
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URGED THAT US WITHDRAW ITS RECOMMENDATION TO PRIVATE FIRMS.

2. I RESPONDED THAT, FIRST, OUR POLICY WAS MEANT TO BE EVEN-HANDED, AND I WAS DISTURBED BY WHAT MINISTER HAD SAID CONCERNING ONE-SIDED DAMAGE TO TURKEY. SECOND, I POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM US COMPANIES OF SITUATION IN AEGEAN -- AND GIVEN STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS WE COULD NOT VIEW SITUATION WITH EQUANIMITY. HOWEVER, US HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO EXPLAINING SITUATION AND HAS NOT GONE ON TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO PRIVATE COMPANIES.

3. THIS EXPLANATION NOTWITHSTANDING, GUNES ASKED THAT I REPORT HIS REQUEST. HE WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT SITUATION IN AEGEAN NOT WHAT IT IS BEING MADE TO APPEAR IN TURKISH PRESS; GOT DOES NOT SEE IT AS SO SERIOUS. CERTAINLY GOT IS NOT SEEKING OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT GREECE, HE SAID. RATHER JOKINGLY, HE REMARKED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR EXPLORATION IN AEGEAN TO BE CARRIED OUT BY VESSEL FROM THIRD-COUNTRY RATHER THAN BY TURKISH VESSEL WITH ARMED ESCORTS.

4. DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER TOPICS REPORTED SEPARATELY.
MACOMBER

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30 JUN 2005

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